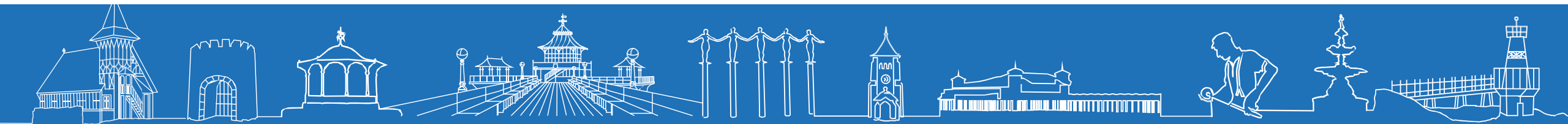


North Somerset Libraries Consultation

31 July - 24 October 2025

ESSENTIAL READING



The Council's legal obligations

North Somerset Council has a legal duty under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 to provide a “comprehensive and efficient” library service for all those who “live, work or study and want to access the service.”

- This includes lending books and other materials to both adults and children, free of charge to those who live, work or study in the area.
- We must also continue to encourage both adults and children to make full use of the library service and provide advice and support on how to make use and access services, information, and resources.

The Council has been facing financial pressures for some time, and it's now even harder to keep running the library service in its current form. At the same time, the way people use libraries is changing. Fewer people are visiting some library buildings, but there is still a strong need for free access to information, culture, and advice. We want to make sure that North Somerset's Library Service continues to meet the needs of local communities. We're also committed to meeting our legal duty to provide a library service that is both comprehensive and efficient.



The consultation – have your say

North Somerset Council invites residents, workers, students and stakeholders to share their views on proposed changes to the library service.

Why Change is Needed:

- Evolving library usage trends (locally & nationally)
- Anticipated shifts over the next decade:
- Demographic changes
- Inequality & unemployment
- Post-Covid impacts
- Rapid tech advancements
- Climate emergency
- Budget constraints

Financial Challenge:

- Council must save £44 million in 3 years, including £433,000 from the library budget

Your input matters in shaping a modern, efficient library service



The consultation – have your say

What you can and can't influence through this consultation

You can influence:

- How library services are delivered in your community to meet your needs (including community-run or other new models where libraries are at risk of closure)
- Ideas for reducing costs while maintaining access (such as opening hours or delivery methods)
- Suggestions for raising additional income or funding
- Ways to reduce negative impacts on individuals and groups

You cannot influence:

- The overall need for savings - budget reductions are required
- The Council's statutory responsibilities to provide public library services

By responding to the consultation, you can inform the Council of your needs and how best these needs can be met within the resources available.



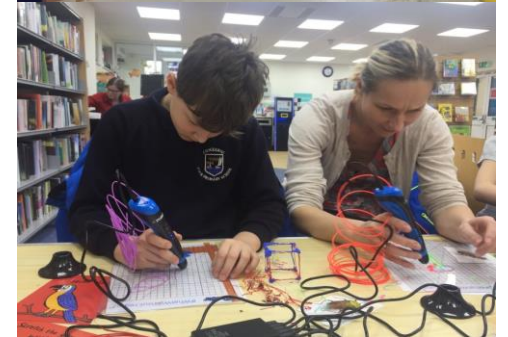
Current Library Services

The Council's current library provision consists of:

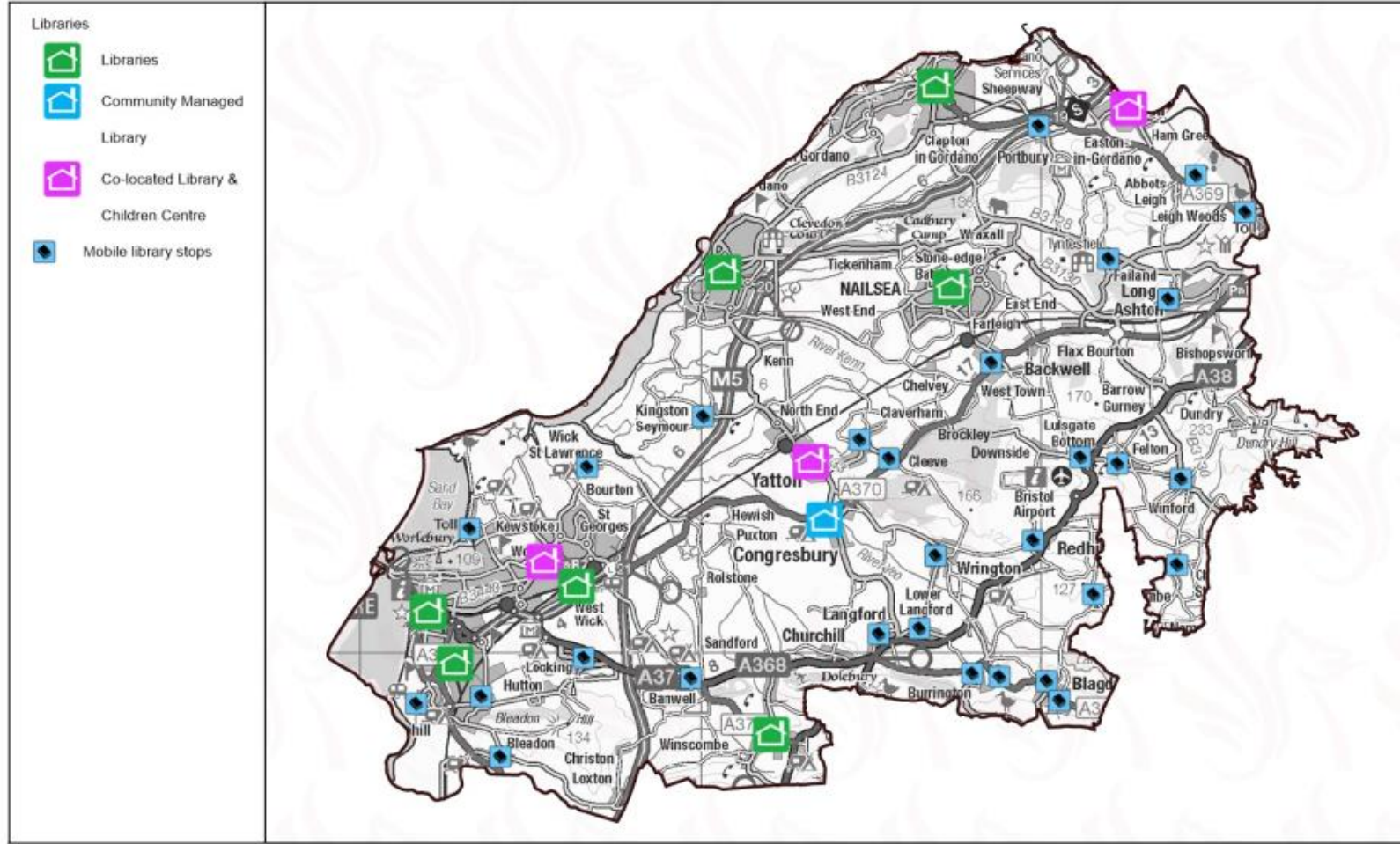
- 11 libraries located in towns and villages across the District. 10 of these libraries are run by the Council, 1 is a community managed library
- A Mobile Library service
- A Home Library Service and Care Home Library Service

The library service also provides:

- Digital services – eBooks, eAudio, eMagazines and eNewspapers
- Access to 145 libraries and 2.5 million items through the LibrariesWest Consortium
- Information provision and enquiry handling, including support for Council enquiries
- Events and activities
- Meeting spaces / warm spaces
- North Somerset (Local) Studies Library and access to historic archives



Current Library Locations and Mobile Stops



- [Campus Library](#)
- [Clevedon Library](#)
- [Congresbury Community Library](#)
- [For All Healthy Living Centre Library](#)
- [Nailsea Library](#)
- [Pill Library and Children's Centre](#)
- [Portishead Library](#)
- [Weston-super-Mare Library](#)
- [Winscombe Library](#)
- [Worle Library and Children's Centre](#)
- [Yatton Library and Children's Centre](#)
- [mobile library](#)



North Somerset Libraries Strategy 2021-2031

The North Somerset Libraries Strategy 2021-2031 highlights the need for a network of libraries which support the needs of North Somerset's communities, placing people at the heart of the service's transformation and development to achieve a modern library service equipped to empower North Somerset's communities, making most of the resources we have together and providing services in new ways.

The Libraries Strategy sets out 4 objectives:

- **Reading, literacy & culture** aims to encourage and support literacy and reading for all and build a love of stories and reading for pleasure.
- **Digital, information & skills** aims to provide community access to digital resources, skills and support, reducing digital inequality and offer opportunities for residents to learn new skills, working with partners and volunteers.
- **Health & Wellbeing** - living well with libraries aims to contribute to the health and wellbeing of individuals and local communities.
- **Community Places accessible to all** aims to provide libraries in communities where there is greatest demand and need; provide safe, accessible library spaces delivering services according to community need; empower communities to help shape and support their library services; find ways to deliver savings and services through engagement with communities.



Current Library Opening Hours

Library	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Campus Library	9.30am to 8pm	9.30am to 8pm	9.30am to 8pm	9.30am to 8pm	9.30am to 8pm	9.30am to 5pm	10am to 5pm
Clevedon Library	9.30am to 5pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 5.15pm to 8pm	9.30am to 5pm (10am to 5pm on the first Tuesday of each month)	Extended Access: 8am to 8pm	Extended Access only 8am to 8pm	9.30am to 5pm	9.30am to 1pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 1.15pm to 8pm	Extended Access; 8am to 8pm
Congresbury Community Library	2pm to 4.30pm	Closed	10am to 12.30pm	Closed	2pm to 4.30pm	10am to 12pm	Closed
For All Healthy Living Centre Library	9.30am to 5pm	9.30am to 5pm	9.30am to 5pm	9.30am to 5pm	9.30am to 5pm	Closed	Closed



Current Library Opening Hours

Library	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Nailsea Library	Extended Access: 8am to 8pm	9.30am to 6pm - opens 10am on the third Tuesday of the month	9.30am to 5pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 5.15pm to 8pm	9.30am to 5pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 5.15pm to 8pm	9.30am to 5pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 5.15pm to 8pm	9.30am to 1pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 1.15pm to 8pm	Extended Access: 8am to 8pm
North Somerset Studies Library	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm	10am – 4pm	Closed
Pill Library & Children's Centre	Closed	9.30am-12.30pm then 1.30pm-5pm	Closed	Closed	9.30am-12.30pm then 1.30pm-5pm	9.30am-1pm	Closed



Current Library Opening Hours

Library	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Portishead Library	Extended Access: 8am-8pm	9:30am – 5pm Extended Access: 8-9.30am and 5.15-8pm	9:30am – 5pm Extended Access: 8-9.30am and 5.15-8pm	9:30am - 5pm* *Opens 10am on the second Thursday of the month Extended Access: 8-9.30am and 5.15-8pm	9:30am – 5pm Extended Access: 8-9.30am and 5.15-8pm	9:30am – 1pm Extended Access: 8-9.30am and 1.15-8pm	Extended Access: 8am-8pm
Weston–super–Mare Library	9.30am to 6pm Self-service hours: 9am to 9.30am	9.30am to 6pm Self-service hours: 9am to 9.30am	9.30am to 6pm Self-service hours: 9am to 9.30am	9.30am to 6pm Self-service hours: 9am to 9.30am	9.30am to 6pm Self-service hours: 9am to 9.30am	9.30am to 4pm Self-service hours: 9am to 9.30am	Closed



Current Library Opening Hours

Library	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Winscombe Library	Extended Access: 8am to 8pm	9.30am to 12.30pm then 1.30pm to 5pm (opening at 10am on the first Tuesday in the month) Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am, 12.45pm to 1.30pm and 5.15pm to 8pm	Extended Access: 8am to 8pm	10am to 12.30pm then 1.30pm to 5pm Extended Access: 12.45pm to 1.30pm and 5.15pm to 8pm	Extended Access: 8am to 8pm	9.30am to 1pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 1.15pm to 8pm	Extended Access: 8am to 8pm



Current Library Opening Hours

Library	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Worle Library & Children's Centre	9.30am to 5pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 5.15pm to 8pm	9.30am to 5pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 5.15pm to 8pm	Extended Access: 5.15pm to 8pm	Extended Access: 5.15pm to 8pm	9.30am to 5pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 5.15pm to 8pm	9.30am to 1pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 1.15pm to 8pm	Extended Access: 8am to 8pm
Yatton Library & Children's Centre	9.30am to 5pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 5.15pm to 8pm	9.30am to 5pm* *Opens at 10am on the first Tuesday of the month Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 5.15pm to 8pm	Extended Access: 8am to 8pm	9.30am to 5pm Extended Access: 8am to 9.30am and 5.15pm to 8pm	Extended Access: 8am to 8pm	9.30am to 1pm	Extended Access: 8am to 8pm



NORTH SOMERSET LIBRARIES 2025

READ, LEARN, CONNECT

12

libraries

411,858

visits

48,473

members

Part of the LibrariesWest consortium with
access to 145 libraries and 2.5 million items



- 128,701 adult and children's books
- 5,546 DVDs CDs and audiobooks
- 858,701 loans

Free access to 14,000 electronic items including
ebooks, eaudio books, and digital magazines

RESERVE AND RENEW LOANS ONLINE

- Mobile library stops at 28 smaller and more rural communities
- Home Library Services deliver books to 176 housebound or care home based individuals
- 36 Home Library service volunteers who have given 1,175 hours



- Free public computers and WiFi in all buildings
- North Somerset local studies collection at Weston library
- Computer help provided by IT buddies

- Libraries ran 883 sessions for early years, attended by 8,094 children
- Thriving volunteer programme: Volunteers have contributed 7,831 hours



www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries



NSomlibraries
@NSLibraries



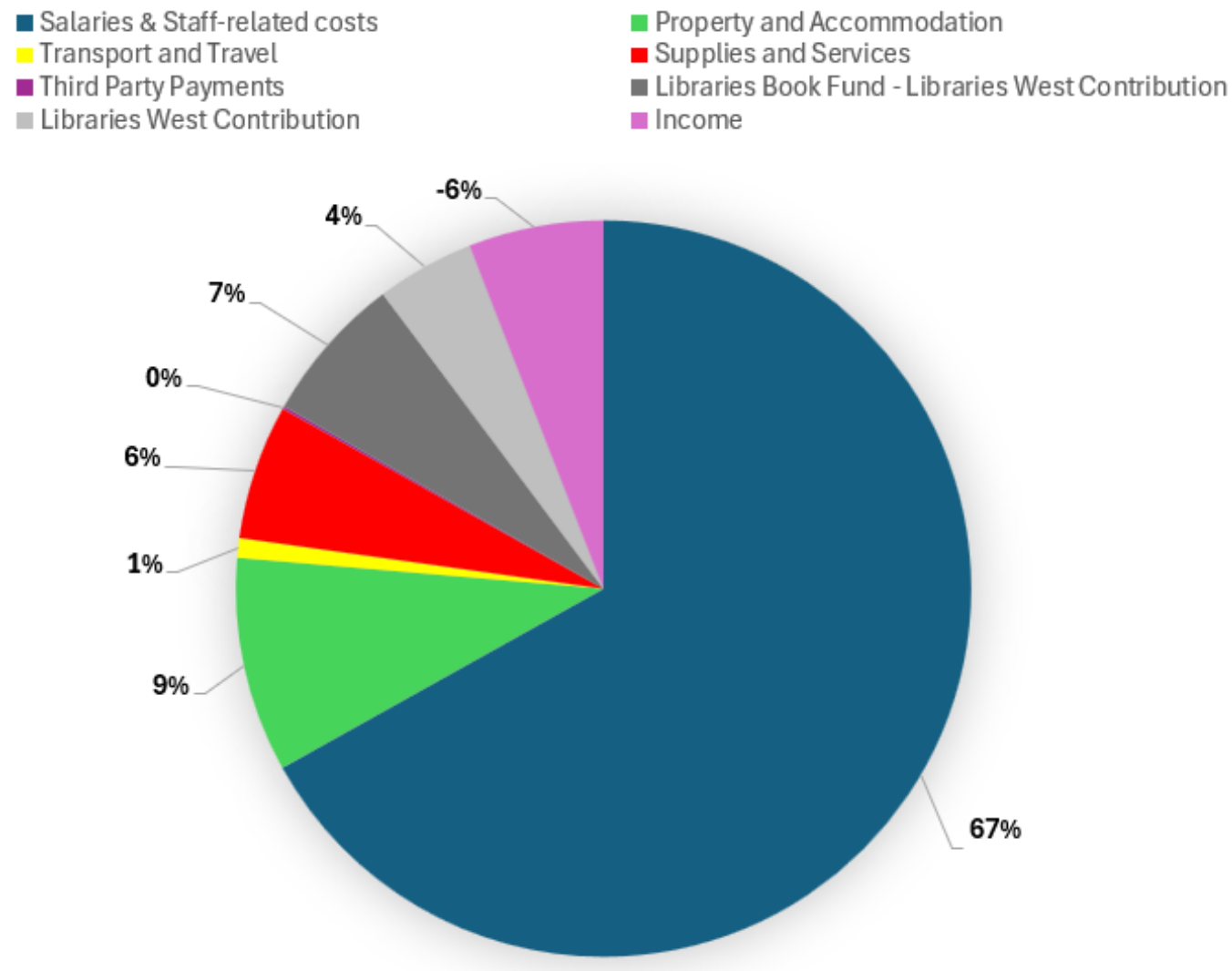
Library usage data, May 2024-Apr 2025

Library	Hours open per week (staffed)	Total hours open per week - staffed and self-service	Items issued and renewed (per annum)	Visits (per annum) including extended access	No. of library members who used the library within the last year (includes loans/renewals only)	Use of public computers (hrs per annum)	No. of printouts (per annum)	Total events hosted 24-25	No. of attendances recorded, (representing instances of participation rather than unique individuals)
Campus	67	67	46,697	71,088	2,388	3,002	14,156	28	
Clevedon	28.25	84	97,908	48,154	3,623	3,759	10,733	535	6,627
Congresbury Community Managed Library	9.5	9.5	5848	3694	333	54	79	n/a	
For All Healthy Living Centre	37.5	37.5	9,657	27,951	644	1,220	3,632	670	2,843
Nailsea Library	34.5	84	109,425	54,839	5,079	2,556	13,740	341	3,241
Pill	16.5	16.5	10,368	5,840	430	142	278	107	1,177
Portishead	33.5	84	113,660	60,742	4,558	2,815	14,360	765	7,635
Weston-super-Mare	49	46.5	82,905	109,116	5,361	14,999	54,616	595	5,039
Winscombe	17	84	20,655	8,929	973	148	830	33	73
Worle	26	55.7	37,374	21,316	1,373	1,043	4,259	296	2,345
Yatton	26	84	44,723	33,407	1,772	1,301	4,465	497	6,465
Mobile	17.25	17.25	29,492	4,463	782	N/A	N/A	135	

North Somerset Libraries combined budget

All budgets combined	£
Salaries & Staff-related costs	1,713,568
Property and Accommodation	241,382
Transport and Travel	22,060
Supplies and Services	151,815
Third Party Payments	-3,037
Libraries Book Fund	166,960
Libraries West Contribution	110,000
Income	-152,066
Net budget	2,250,682

Savings requirement £433k 2026-28 = 19.2% of 2025-26 budget



Options for the consultation – general principles

The proposed delivery model is shaped by general principles developed with consideration given to how to use resources most effectively to deliver library services across the district:

- **Assessment of Need:** to help determine and support changes that are to be introduced
- **Efficient Resource Use:** Focus on delivering statutory duties through a smaller number of libraries open during peak demand.
- **Enhanced Outreach:** Expand services to underserved areas via mobile and community-based outreach, enabling statutory obligations to continue to be met.
- **Community-Centric Approach:** Deliver flexible, locally tailored services based on community feedback and needs.
- **Targeted Support:** Prioritise alternative service delivery in high-need, low-engagement communities.
- **Accessibility:** Ensure library buildings are as accessible as possible to all users.



Options for the consultation – general principles

- **Diverse Activities:** Offer a broad range of inclusive library activities aligned with Council strategies
- **Welcoming Spaces:** Libraries to remain friendly, inclusive, and community-focused.
- **Service Model Adjustments:** Fewer council-run libraries. Reduced opening hours at remaining sites alongside increased self-service access
- **Cost-Saving Measures:** Cutback on underused resources and book stock. Reduced staffing, including management and professional roles. Lower transport costs and other behind the scenes budgets
- **Community Involvement:** Explore community-led management for at-risk libraries
- **Income Generation:** Boost revenue through advertising, sponsorship, and increased space rentals



What is being proposed?

To balance savings with quality service, and to continue to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service, the council is considering the following options:

- **Community-managed libraries:** transferring the management of some libraries to the community, where they might otherwise close.
- **Adjusted staffed hours at other libraries:** changing staffed opening times and expanding self-service options.
- **Alternative delivery methods:** investing in outreach activities to maintain access to library services where permanent libraries may no longer be viable.
- **Cost reductions:** cutting central management, stock budgets, and streamlining back-office functions.
- **Income generation:** exploring increased room hires, partnerships, and fundraising to support library services financially.



Potential changes	What this could involve	Possible impacts
1. Community-managed libraries	In some areas, we may no longer run a library directly. Instead, local community groups could be supported to take on management.	Libraries could remain open in areas where a council-run model is no longer sustainable - but this would depend on local capacity and interest.
2. Alternative service delivery	In places where libraries may close or change, services could be offered differently (for example, via mobile library, drop-off points, partner venues, or the Home Library Service).	People would still have access to library services, but in new formats or locations. Some people may have to travel further or use services differently.
3. Changes to opening hours	Staffed hours may be reduced in some libraries, based on usage patterns. In some cases, self-service access could be extended so libraries remain open without staff present.	Libraries would still offer access to a range of services but with fewer staffed hours. Customers may need to visit at different times than currently or visit during self-service hours
4. Reducing central budgets	Savings could be made in areas like central staffing, the new book and digital resources budget, management, IT systems, equipment and stationery.	Libraries would still have a range of books available to customers but spending on new books would reduce. The way services are supported behind the scenes would be affected.
5. Income generation	Increased promotion of library spaces for hire, advertising, or partnerships with local organisations.	Could bring in income to help support core services — but may reduce space available for community use in some locations.



Option A: an overview of the proposal

The proposal for Option A includes:

- Closing up to three libraries
- A reduction in opening hours across the remaining council-run libraries
- Savings from central budgets, including spending on new books and digital resources
- Libraries would be kept open in locations where population and usage are highest, supported by assessment of need.
- Local communities would be offered the opportunity to manage libraries with the lowest usage in **Winscombe and Pill**, with the potential to remain part of the North Somerset network and retain access to LibrariesWest services.
- If no viable community-led solutions are found **Winscombe and Pill** libraries may unfortunately have to close so that the required level of savings can be made.

Continued on next page



Option A: an overview of the proposal

The proposal for Option A includes:

- Where libraries close, access to library services will be offered in other ways to address local need.
- **Worle Library** - The building which houses the library is run and managed by the Children's Centre. A recent building survey has highlighted several issues with the building likely which are likely to lead to significant repair and maintenance costs. The library is unable to keep operating from this venue. Alternative library services are available at the Campus, 1.5 miles away. The community are being invited to help shape the offer locally.

Option A should achieve the full amount of £433k savings if implemented in full



Option A: an overview of the financial savings

Site changes

• Transfer / close Pill Library and Children's Centre	£28,200
• Transfer / close Winscombe Library	£27,800
• Close Worle Library and Children's Centre	£56,800

Reduction in opening hours

• North Somerset Studies Library - reduce by 2.5 days per week	£15,900
• For All Healthy Living Centre Library - reduce by 5 hours per week	£36,900
• Weston-super-Mare Library - reduce by 8.5 hours per week	£32,800
• Nailsea Library - reduce by 1.5 hrs hours per week	£4,700
• Clevedon Library - reduce by 0.5 hours per week	£1,800
• Yatton Library - reduce by 0.5 hours per week	£1,200
• Portishead Library - reduce by 0.5 hours per week	£1,800

Other staffing savings

• Reduce central staffing and management budgets	£121,200
• Delete posts currently held vacant	£42,100

Continued on next page



Miscellaneous savings

- Reduce systems maintenance £4,100
- Reduce spending on library books and e-resources £20,500
- Delete unused stationery and equipment budgets £33,000

Sub-total savings

£428,800

Option A: continued

Increased income generation

- Advertising and commercial opportunities £5,000
- Increased lettings / subletting income £11,600
- Recharges from partnership working £21,900
- Increased donations £1,000
- External funding for key events / activities £2,000

Sub-total income

£41,500

Investment

- Increase outreach activity -£37,300

Total savings anticipated

£433,000



Option A – table of proposed changes to staffed opening hours

Library	Description of proposed change	Proposed reduction in weekly staffed hours	Proposed mitigations include
Campus Library	Close at 6pm on weekdays. Close at 1pm on Saturdays and Sundays.	18 hours per week	Introduce further self service facilities, enabling an overall increase in opening hours of 17 per week
Clevedon Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays.	0.5 per week	Increase self-service opening hours
Congresbury Community-managed Library	No change	No change	None
For All Healthy Living Centre Library	Close between 12.30pm and 1.30pm Monday to Friday	5 hour per week	Explore self-service opening
Nailsea Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays. Close at 5pm on Tuesdays.	1.5 hours per week	Increase self-service opening hours
North Somerset Studies library	Close at 12.30pm Saturdays. Close two days per week.	15.5 hours per week	Promote new opening hours. Make alternative study space available.
Portishead Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays	0.5 hours per week	Increase self-service opening hours
Weston-super-Mare Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays. Close at 5pm on weekdays.	8.5 hours per week	Explore the feasibility of extending self-service hours between 5pm and 6pm daily. Promote digital access to library and council services.
Yatton Library and Children’s Centre	Close at 12.30pm instead of 1pm on Saturdays	0.5 hours per week	Increase self-service opening hours

Option B: an overview of the proposal

The proposal for Option B includes:

- Closing up to two libraries
- A reduction in opening hours across the remaining council-run libraries
- Savings from central budgets, including spending on new books and digital resources
- Libraries would be kept open in locations where population and usage are highest, supported by assessment of need.
- **Pill Library** would remain part of the North Somerset Library network, as although usage is low community need could be considered high. This would reduce the amount that needed to be invested in outreach for that community.
- **An additional £10,000 savings would be required** on top of those for Option A from the new books and digital resources budget.

Continued on next page



Option B: an overview of the proposal

The proposal for Option B includes:

- To find the additional saving required the **For All Healthy Living Centre library** would close on Mondays when usage is lowest.
- Local communities would be offered the opportunity to manage **Winscombe Library**, with the potential to remain part of the North Somerset network and retain access to LibrariesWest services.
- If no viable community-led solutions are found **Winscombe Library** may unfortunately have to close so that the required level of savings can be made.
- Where libraries close, access to library services will be offered in other ways to address local need.

Continued on next page



Option B: an overview of the proposal

The proposal for Option B includes:

- **Worle Library** - The building which houses the library is run and managed by the Children's Centre. A recent building survey has highlighted several issues with the building likely which are likely to lead to significant repair and maintenance costs. The library is unable to keep operating from this venue. Alternative library services are available at the Campus, 1.5 miles away. The community are being invited to help shape the offer locally.

Option B should achieve the full amount of £433k savings if implemented in full



Option B – proposed changes to staffed opening hours - Continued on next page

Library	Description of proposed change	Proposed reduction in weekly staffed hours	Proposed mitigations include
Campus Library	Close at 6pm on weekdays. Close at 1pm on Saturdays and Sundays.	18 hours per week	Introduce further self service facilities, enabling an overall increase in opening hours of 17 per week
Clevedon Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays.	0.5 per week	Increase self-service opening hours
Congresbury Community-managed Library	No change	No change	None
For All Healthy Living Centre Library	Close on Monday. Close between 12.30-13.30 Tuesday to Friday.	11.5 hour per week	Explore self-service opening
Nailsea Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays. Close at 5pm on Tuesdays.	1.5 hours per week	Increase self-service opening hours
North Somerset Studies library	Close at 12.30pm Saturdays. Close two days per week.	15.5 hours per week	Promote new opening hours. Make alternative study space available.



Option B – proposed changes to staffed opening hours

Library	Description of proposed change	Proposed reduction in weekly staffed hours	Proposed mitigations include
Pill Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays.	0.5 hours per week	
Portishead Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays	0.5 hours per week	Increase self-service opening hours
Weston-super-Mare Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays. Close at 5pm on weekdays.	8.5 hours per week	Explore the feasibility of extending self-service hours between 5pm and 6pm daily. Promote digital access to library and council services.
Yatton Library and Children's Centre	Close at 12.30pm instead of 1pm on Saturdays	0.5 hours per week	Increase self-service opening hours



Option B: an overview of the financial savings

Site changes

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Transfer / close Winscombe Library | £27,800 |
| • Close Worle Library and Children's Centre | £56,800 |

Reduction in opening hours

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • North Somerset Studies Library - reduce by 2.5 days per week | £15,900 |
| • For All Healthy Living Centre Library - reduce by 11.5 hours per week | £44,000 |
| • Weston-super-Mare Library - reduce by 8.5 hours per week | £32,800 |
| • Nailsea Library - reduce by 1.5 hrs hours per week | £4,700 |
| • Clevedon Library - reduce by 0.5 hours per week | £1,800 |
| • Yatton Library - reduce by 0.5 hours per week | £1,200 |
| • Portishead Library - reduce by 0.5 hours per week | £1,800 |
| • Pill Library – reduce by 0.5 hours per week | £600 |

Other staffing savings

- | | |
|--|----------|
| • Reduce central staffing and management budgets | £121,200 |
| • Delete posts currently held vacant | £42,100 |

Continued on next page



Miscellaneous savings

- Reduce systems maintenance £3,500
- Reduce spending on library books and e-resources £30,500
- Delete unused stationery and equipment budgets £33,000

Sub-total savings

£428,800

Option B: continued

Increased income generation

- Advertising and commercial opportunities £5,000
- Increased lettings / subletting income £11,600
- Recharges from partnership working £21,900
- Increased donations £1,000
- External funding for key events / activities £2,000

Sub-total income

£41,500

Investment

- Increase outreach activity -£26,300

Total savings anticipated

£433,000



Option C: an overview of the proposal

The proposal for Option C includes:

- Closing up to two libraries
- A reduction in opening hours across the remaining council-run libraries
- Savings from central budgets, including spending on new books and digital resources
- Libraries would be kept open in locations where population and usage are highest, supported by assessment of need.
- **Winscombe Library** would remain part of the North Somerset Library network, as although usage is relatively low compared to town libraries, the library serves a significant rural population. This would reduce the amount that needed to be invested in outreach for that community.
- **An additional £10,000 savings would be required** on top of those for Option A from the new books and digital resources budget.

Continued on next page



Option C: an overview of the proposal

The proposal for Option C includes:

- To find the additional saving required the **For All Healthy Living Centre library** would close on Mondays when usage is lowest.
- Local communities would be offered the opportunity to manage **Pill Library**, with the potential to remain part of the North Somerset network and retain access to LibrariesWest services.
- If no viable community-led solutions are found **Pill Library** may unfortunately have to close so that the required level of savings can be made.
- Where libraries close, access to library services will be offered in other ways to address local need.

Continued on next page



Option C: an overview of the proposal

The proposal for Option C includes:

- **Worle Library** - The building which houses the library is run and managed by the Children's Centre. A recent building survey has highlighted several issues with the building likely which are likely to lead to significant repair and maintenance costs. The library is unable to keep operating from this venue. Alternative library services are available at the Campus, 1.5 miles away. The community are being invited to help shape the offer locally.

Option C should achieve the full amount of £433k savings if implemented in full



Option C – proposed changes to staffed opening hours - Continued on next page

Library	Description of proposed change	Proposed reduction in weekly staffed hours	Proposed mitigations include
Campus Library	Close at 6pm on weekdays. Close at 1pm on Saturdays and Sundays.	18 hours per week	Introduce further self service facilities, enabling an overall increase in opening hours of 17 per week
Clevedon Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays.	0.5 per week	Increase self-service opening hours
Congresbury Community-managed Library	No change	No change	None
For All Healthy Living Centre Library	Close on Monday. Close between 12.30-13.30 Tuesday to Friday.	11.5 hour per week	Explore self-service opening
Nailsea Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays. Close at 5pm on Tuesdays.	1.5 hours per week	Increase self-service opening hours
North Somerset Studies library	Close at 12.30pm Saturdays. Close two days per week.	15.5 hours per week	Promote new opening hours. Make alternative study space available.



Option C – proposed changes to staffed opening hours

Library	Description of proposed change	Proposed reduction in weekly staffed hours	Proposed mitigations include
Portishead Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays	0.5 hours per week	Increase self-service opening hours
Weston-super-Mare Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays. Close at 5pm on weekdays.	8.5 hours per week	Explore the feasibility of extending self-service hours between 5pm and 6pm daily. Promote digital access to library and council services.
Winscombe Library	Close at 12.30pm on Saturdays	0.5 hours per week	Increase self-service opening hours
Yatton Library and Children's Centre	Close at 12.30pm instead of 1pm on Saturdays	0.5 hours per week	Increase self-service opening hours



Option C: an overview of the financial savings

Site changes

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Transfer / close Pill Library | £28,200 |
| • Close Worle Library and Children's Centre | £56,800 |

Reduction in opening hours

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • North Somerset Studies Library - reduce by 2.5 days per week | £15,900 |
| • For All Healthy Living Centre Library - reduce by 11.5 hours per week | £44,000 |
| • Weston-super-Mare Library - reduce by 8.5 hours per week | £32,800 |
| • Nailsea Library - reduce by 1.5 hrs hours per week | £4,700 |
| • Clevedon Library - reduce by 0.5 hours per week | £1,800 |
| • Yatton Library - reduce by 0.5 hours per week | £1,200 |
| • Portishead Library - reduce by 0.5 hours per week | £1,800 |
| • Winscombe Library – reduce by 0.5 hours per week | £600 |

Other staffing savings

- | | |
|--|----------|
| • Reduce central staffing and management budgets | £121,200 |
| • Delete posts currently held vacant | £42,100 |

Continued on next page



Miscellaneous savings

- Reduce systems maintenance £3,500
- Reduce spending on library books and e-resources £30,500
- Delete unused stationery and equipment budgets £33,000

Sub-total savings

£428,800

Option C: continued

Increased income generation

- Advertising and commercial opportunities £5,000
- Increased lettings / subletting income £11,600
- Recharges from partnership working £21,900
- Increased donations £1,000
- External funding for key events / activities £2,000

Sub-total income

£41,500

Investment

- Increase outreach activity -£26,300

Total savings anticipated

£433,000



Important to know

It is highly likely that up to three libraries could close if we cannot find an alternative way to deliver services in those areas.

Potential closures at **Pill and Winscombe** are not confirmed, and your feedback, ideas, and local knowledge alongside our needs assessment, could help identify other options such as:

- Community-run libraries
- Partner organisations stepping in
- Mobile or outreach services
- New income or funding opportunities



What are community managed libraries?

Across the country, there are many ways that community managed libraries are run. The approaches vary depending on the needs of the local community they serve. Generally, these libraries are:

- Led and run by the community, often without paid staff. However, they may receive some professional advice and support.
- Supported in some way by the local council, even if they are not fully funded by it.
- Part of the wider library network, though they might not always count as part of the council's official (statutory) library service.

Potential benefits include:

- greater community involvement and influence in services delivered
- they can be co-located with other services e.g. village halls, shops, post offices, day centres, social enterprises, development trusts
- they can reduce operating costs
- they provide volunteering opportunities which can reduce social isolation
- they develop volunteers' skills and provide work experience

Community managed libraries in North Somerset

- North Somerset currently has one community managed library in Congresbury
- The library is managed and run by a team of volunteers, supported by Congresbury Parish Council and North Somerset libraries
- The library became community managed in 2017 and remains part of the North Somerset statutory library network
- Built on the success of several years of community volunteering support for the North Somerset run library in Congresbury
- Costs for the building and running of the library are funded by the Parish Council
- North Somerset provides book stock, IT equipment, access to library systems and c. 4 hours per week officer support
- The service provided is underpinned by a collaboration agreement between the Parish Council and North Somerset Council



What is outreach?

‘Library outreach’ describes a wide range of library activities, events and services which are delivered outside of library buildings, for example in community halls or other North Somerset sites. Activities may be delivered with partners and often by volunteers and are tailored to meet community needs. Examples of existing library outreach activities include:

- [Home Delivery Service](#) - volunteers deliver books to people unable to leave their homes independently
- [Care Homes Service](#) - volunteers deliver carefully selected books to people in care and residential homes
- [Mobile Library Service](#) – delivers a book lending service to communities across the district
- Activities for pre-school aged children (story times and rhyme times) in community locations
- Delivery of the annual [Summer Reading Challenge](#) for primary school aged children, in community locations
- Group [reminiscence sessions](#) for older people and those living with Dementia
- Group shared reading sessions
- Digital skills sessions - help gain skills to use computers, tablets and other technology



How to take part

You can respond to the consultation at: <https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/Libraries/consultationHome>

If you require a paper copy or an alternative format, please contact us at consultation@n-somerset.gov.uk

If you have any questions, please contact our libraries team:

Email: libraries.review@n-somerset.gov.uk

Phone: 01934 426 834

Public engagement sessions

We'll be holding a number of sessions during the consultation period, where you can:

- Learn more about the proposed changes
- Ask questions
- Share your views directly with council staff and / or councillors

Details of dates, times, and how to book will be published on our website: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/library-consultation and displayed in council-run libraries.



How to take part

Want to get involved?

A few libraries are at risk of closure. If you or your group would like to explore running or supporting one, please contact us directly at libraries.review@n-somerset.gov.uk . We welcome any enquiries and will help you understand what's involved.

Consultation period

This consultation is open for 12 weeks, from 31 July 2025 to midday on 24 October 2025.

What happens next?

After the consultation closes on 24 October, all feedback will be reviewed and considered. Final recommendations will be presented to Cabinet and Full Council in February 2026. A summary of consultation findings will be published on this page and the council's website.

Finally

Please take the time to share your views: we know asking for your views on valued local services reducing is difficult and challenging. But we are committed to being open with you. By responding to the consultation, you can inform the Council of your needs and how best your needs can be met within the resources available.

